



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 24 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Superintendent Constantine Dillon
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 North Mineral Springs Road
Porter, Indiana 45304

Re: Final White-tailed Deer Management Plan (Plan)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IDNL), Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties, Indiana
EIS No. 20120119

Dear Superintendent Dillon:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the National Park Service's (NPS) Final Plan and EIS concerning white-tailed deer management pursuant to our authority under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Final Plan/EIS indicates Alternative D remains the preferred alternative. Alternative D is comprised of a combination of actions to ensure an immediate reduction in deer population to protect the physical and biological environment of the IDNL. EPA rated the Draft Plan/EIS document as *Lack of Objections*, an indication that our review did not identify any environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project that would require substantive changes to the preferred alternative. The proposed action and analysis have not changed substantially. Our earlier position still applies to the preferred alternative presented in this Final Plan/EIS. Consequently, we have no further comments on the proposed project or the Record of Decision (ROD).

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. Please send one copy of the ROD to my attention. If you have any questions, please contact me at 312-886-2910 or you may contact Kathy Kowal of my staff at 312-353-5206 or via email at kowal.kathleen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance